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BY D. E. SYMONDS,

EDITOR & PROPRIETOR.

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LILL'S WITHERED HAND.

A STORY FOR THE OLDER GIRLS.

Lill was almost sixteen, that is physi-

cally, according to the earth method of

reckoning time; and she hoped she had

been born again about two years before.

How old that would make her spiritual-

ly, it would be hard to tell, for in that

life one can grow wonderfully in five

minutes, or can almost stand still for five

years. A very alarming fact, when one

thinks of it; there is such danger of be-

coming stunted and deformed, when one

is not growing healthily.

But Lill wasn't in the least thinking

about this, as she bustled about, pre-

paring to take a walk that bright winter

afternoon, with her best friend, Josie.

She was almost ready to go, with her

sailor collar arranged just low enough on

her pretty white neck, around which she

was tying her largest and warmest gold

locket, for it was a very cold day, when

Jane came in from the kitchen.

If you please, Miss Lill, there's a poor

woman down stairs, and she says you

promised her—

Now, Jo! cried Lill with such a frown.

Did you ever know anything so provok-

ing? It was only yesterday I was taking

a walk out by the factory—I'll never go

that way again—and I was so unfortu-

nate as to stumble upon that good Miss

Harper, who would insist on my going

in to see a Mrs. Meagher, this same

wretched old creature, with a wretched

sick old husband, and two dozen, at least

wretched dirty children. (Lill's style

was always more remarkable for vigor

than accuracy.) And Josie, you don't

know how it made me feel just for a minute.

I can't bear to see any one so mis-

erable; and so I told her to come right to

my house, and I'd give her some stock-

ings and things, and some of my old

clothes for the children. But who would

have dreamed of her being so unreason-

able as to come the very next day! May-

be she thought I'd like to sit up all night

hunting for things to give her!

Josie shrugged her shoulders at the

thought of such presumption, and lack of

the simplest common sense, on the part

of Mrs. Meagher.

Oh, Jane, are you waiting? continued

Lill, putting on her gloves. Well, just

tell her I haven't had a moment's time to

look for anything, and she may call again

next week. And I'm very much engaged

now, every, remember, Jane, in case she

should ask to see me.

I don't care, continued Lill, as she

sauntered forth, after peeping from the win-

dow, to avoid any embarrassing encoun-

ter with the dejected, patient old creature

slowly plodding home again, I don't care!

(but she did though.) No one

knows how busy I have been this morn-